

USER INTERFACE FOR CHARACTER ENTRY USING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SELECTION KEYS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Methods and apparatus for character entry, e.g., entry of alphanumeric
characters or shorthand symbols, employing fewer hard or soft data entry keys than the
number of characters are disclosed. Keyboards are disclosed comprising multiple
display windows in which character groups of a defined collection of characters are
scrolled through and a character set is simultaneously displayed for in the display
10 windows. The character set is presented for selection in a display window for
discrete display time periods either automatically or by user advancement. Users
rely upon hand-eye coordination and trainable manual dexterity to "grab" the
displayed characters on the fly or in as short a display time as possible. In the
automatic scrolling mode, as experience is gained, the user anticipates the
15 presentation of characters of each subset in each display window. Thus, the full
collection of characters is presented in space and in time to reduce the time between
character selection, and speed and accuracy of data entry are increased.